THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The LPG cylinders currently being used by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are of extremely safe design and are manufactured as per the applicable Indian Standard Specifications. The design of these cylinders is approved by Chief Controller of Explosives (CCoE) and Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The standards for cylinder manufacturing were finalised by a Gas Cylinder Sectional Committee of BIS, comprising technical experts from organisations like Department of Explosives, OMCs, National Safety Council, experts from engineering industry and approved cylinder manufacturers. All new cylinders are 100% hydraulically and pneumatically tested and certified by BIS. In bottling plants, LPG filled cylinders are 100% checked for valve leak and body leak before being sent to the market.

(d) and (e) No compensation is paid by OMCs for such accidents. However, OMCs have taken an Insurance Policy which is legal liability and No Fault Liability policy covering personal accident, medical expenses and property damages arising out of LPG accidents at customers' registered premises, registered dealers' premises and whilst the cylinders are in transit.

Petrol pumps in tribal districts

†4735. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no proper facility for petrol and diesel pumps is available in tribal Districts in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(b) whether petrol pumps are available in certain selected cities only whereas tribal people live in remote areas;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up petrol pumps in these remote areas is under the consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Oil Marketing Companies have set up retail outlets (petrol/diesel pumps) in the tribal districts of the State of Jharkhand in line with the volume-distance norms.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1-4-2002, the Oil Marketing Companies have freedom to choose locations for setting up retail outlets dealerships in various parts of the country, including remote areas in the State of Bihar and Jharkhand provided that the locations meet certain norms like commercial viability and non-encroachment of the existing dealerships.

Natural gas processing centres in Gujarat

4736. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether natural gas is being processed for production of LPG at Vaghodia and Gandhar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to provide LPG through pipelines in the nearby areas of these processing Centres in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) GAIL (India) Ltd. is having two LPG processing plants at Vaghodia and Gandhar in Gujarat having a production capacity of 73,000 metric tonne (MT) and 2,50,000 MT per annum and a gas throughout capacity of 2.5 and 5.0 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) respectively. The dispatch from both the plants are through road tankers. The storage capacity at Vaghodia is 950 MT and of Gandhar is 2,270 MT. The LPG production at Vaghodia during 2000-01 and 2001-02 was 75,980 MT and 78,380 MT respectively and of Gandhar during 2001-02 was 1,27,214 MT (being the 1st year of production).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Oil field near bassein gasfield off Mumbai

4737. SHRI R. P. GOENKA :
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :